

Medicare Ambulance Fee Schedule Training Materials for Carriers



March 2002

Medicare Ambulance Fee Schedule

INTRODUCTION

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) revised the training material for the Medicare ambulance fee schedule for Medicare carriers to provide suppliers with updated information they need to successfully implement the ambulance fee schedules.

This training material is designed for carriers to update suppliers and carrier staff about the fee schedule updates. We have provided training text and reference documents to facilitate that process.

This material was initially produced prior to the publication of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to implement the Medicare ambulance fee schedule. We have revised the training material to incorporate updates to the fee schedule effective April 1, 2002. Please refer to the final rule as published in the *Federal Register* Wednesday, February 27, 2002, for complete information on the new fee schedule.

Official CMS policy is released as Program Memoranda, Manuals and Regulations. This training material is a supplement to these official publications.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Carriers will be able to:

- Explain the basic concepts of the ambulance fee schedule
- Explain the concepts of the ambulance fee schedule from claim submission to a claim's payment.
- Understand how the ambulance fee schedule will affect their work
- Understand their responsibilities related to ambulance fee schedule provider education and anticipated provider concerns
- Use the training tools in this manual for supplier ambulance fee schedule education

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ALS Assessment	Advanced Life Support (ALS) Assessment
ALS1	Advanced Life Support, Level 1
ALS2	Advanced Life Support, Level 2
ASC	Ambulatory Surgical Center
BBA	Balanced Budget Act of 1997
BBRA	Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999
BIPA	Benefits Improvement Protection Act of 2000
BLS	Basic Life Support
CAH	Critical Access Hospital
CF	Conversion Factor
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CMS	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
CPT	Current Procedural Terminology
CY	Calendar Year
DME	Durable Medical Equipment
DOA	Dead on Arrival
DOS	Date of Service
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EOMB	Explanation of Medicare Benefits
FI	Fiscal Intermediary
FL	Form Locator

FR	Federal Register
FW	Fixed Wing (Airplane) Air Ambulance
GAF	Geographic Adjustment Factor
Goldsmith Modification	Establishes an operational definition of rural areas within large counties that contain one or more metropolitan areas. The Goldsmith areas are so isolated by distance or physical features that they are more rural than urban in character and lack easy geographic access to health services
GPCI	Geographic Practice Cost Index
HCPCS	Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System
HHA	Home Health Agency
HMO	Health Maintenance Organization
IIC	Inflation Index Charge
Loaded Miles	An ambulance trip that has a patient on board the ambulance
MAR	Mileage Air Rate
MCM	Medicare Carriers Manual
MGR	Mileage Ground Rate
MIM	Medicare Intermediary Manual
MR	Medical Review
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area
MSN	Medicare Summary Notice
NECMA	New England County Metropolitan Area
OPPS	Outpatient Prospective Payment System
PE	Practice Expense

PI	Paramedic Intercept
PPS	Prospective Payment System
RA	Rural Air Adjustment Factor
RG	Rural Ground Adjustment Factor
RPCH	Rural Primary Care Hospital
RVU	Relative Value Unit
RW	Rotary Wing (Helicopter) Air Ambulance
SCT	Specialty Care Transport
SNF	Skilled Nursing Facility
SSA	Social Security Act